## Message Text

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R 191552Z JUL 77 FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8119 INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SF

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT BY CHIEF BUTHELEZI

REF: LONDON 11715

1. EMBASSY AND CONSTITUENT POSTS HAVE RECEIVED SEVERAL SIGNALS DURING PAST MONTHS FROM BUTHELEZI SUPPORTERS WHO BELIEVE US SHOULD BE MORE ACTIVE IN RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING THE CHIEF'S MANY ACTIVITIES. THIS HAS PROMPTED US TO CONDUCT AN ASSESSMENT OF BUTHELEZI'S RELATIONS WITH USG IN A MESSAGE (DURBAN A-60) WHICH WILL REACH DEPARTMENT EARLY DURING WEEK OF JULY 25. DEPT MAY WISH TO REVIEW OUR ASSESSMENT BEFORE REPLYING TO REFTEL. GIVEN RECENT BACKGROUND OF OUR RELATIONS, EMBASSY WOULD NOT EXCLUDE THAT MBATHA'S APPROACH REPRESENTS ENGINEERED ATTEMPT TO PROMOTE PUBLIC USG SUPPORT FOR BUTHELEZI'S PERSONAL POLITICAL CAMPAIGN. GIVEN THE ATTENTION PAID TO BUTHELEZI IN HIS MOST RECENT TRIP TO THE US. INCLUDING A WELL-PUBLICIZED MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, WE WOULD NOT FAVOR SPONSORSHIP OF THE SEMINAR SUGGESTED. OF COURSE, IF SOME OF BUTHELEZI'S FRIENDS OR ASSOCIATES ARE ABLE TO INTEREST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A FOUNDATION OR UNIVERSITY IN ORGANIZING SUCH A SEMINAR, WE SHOULD NOT STAND IN THEIR WAY.

2. LONDON REFTEL DOES POINT UP ONE SPECIAL PROBLEM WE FACE IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH BUTHELEZI: THIS BEING THAT HE AND HIS LIEUTENANTS HAVE LONG BEEN ACCUSTOMED TO CONTACT THE USG THROUGH A NUMBER OF CHANNELS ON AN ARRAY OF PROPOSALS

AND REQUESTS. QUESTION OF USG COORDINATION ASIDE, THIS PROCEDURE INVARIABLY RAISES THE QUESTION WHETHER BUTHELEZI IS COGNIZANT OF HIS SUBORDINATES' ACTIVITIES AND ENDORSES THEM; OR WHETHER BUTHELEZI HIMSELF BELIEVES HE MAY DERIVE COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE FROM CONTACTING USG THROUGH SO MANY DIFFERENT AVENUES. WE HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING FOR SOME MONTHS THE ADVISABILITY OF REQUESTING BUTHELEZI TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF CONTACT CHANNELS (TO MYSELF OR DCM NELSON IN PRETORIA AND CONGEN FARBER IN DURBAN) TO ENSURE PROPER COORDINATION BETWEEN USG AND CHIEF. THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD APPEAR TO OFFER AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THIS QUESTION WITH BUTHELEZI WHICH, SUBJECT TO THE DEPT'S COMMENT OR OTHER SUGGESTIONS, I OR CONGEN FARBER WOULD DO. BOWDLER

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